

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On page 4 at lines 12-28, delete the present paragraph and insert therefor:

-- To fit the patient, the cuff member is attached comfortably about the patient's calf and then the patient puts his foot into the open boot. Normally, the patient is sitting down as he puts his foot into the boot atop the main pad and the removable, fitting pad. Up to this point, the upright brace members preferably have plastic covers over them. In this regard, the cuff member has one portion of hook and loop or ~~Velcro~~ VELCRO® fasteners on each outer side. Additionally, the brace members have the other portions of hook and loop fasteners on their respective insides. In this way and with the patient's foot in a fitted position in the soft boot, the plastic covers can be removed from the brace members wherein the cuff member will be secured to the brace members at the desired position via the hook and loop fasteners. --

On page 7[/] at lines 18-19, delete the present paragraph and insert therefor:

-- Figures 8-13 ~~illustrates~~ illustrate the preferred fitting method of the present invention. --

On page 7 at 25-29, delete the present paragraph and insert therefor:

-- Figures 16 and 17 illustrate the manner in which the patient can subsequently put on the suspension walker to duplicate the original fitting position set by the physician, practitioner, or therapist. Figures 16 and 16a also illustrate how the physician, practitioner, or therapist can choose from a variety of different, prefabricated sizes of each piece of the suspension walker to best fit the patient. --

On page 13 at lines 9-31, delete the present paragraph and insert therefor:

-- A great advantage of the fitting method of Figures 8-13 is that it can be done in one, simple visit with the physician, practitioner, or therapist. In contrast as discussed above, custom suspension walkers often take weeks and multiple trips to make and fit. Additionally and to the extent it is desirable to adjust the fit of Figures 8-13, the fitting method can be easily and quickly redone to position the cuff member 9 at virtually any number of infinite locations along the brace members 5. A further advantage of the present invention is that virtually all of the pieces (e.g., boot shell 3, soft boot 7, and cuff member 9 of Figure 16) of the suspension walker 1 can be prefabricated in various sizes, as for example, the respective smaller sizes of boot shell 3', soft boot 7', and cuff member 9' of Figure 16a. In this manner, and the physician, practitioner, or therapist can easily select the proper size of each piece from a variety of them on hand. The patient can then be properly fitted and begin using the suspension walker 1 immediately to relieve weight from the damaged foot and to begin the healing process. No waiting or delay to receive the walker is involved. With diabetic and other patients as discussed above, this is extremely important. --